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LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1992 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CROATIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Only a day after the end of the Helsinki Summit from which (just like the Bosnian-Herzegovian delegation whom we saw off from Zagreb this morning) we returned full of hopes that the situation in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina would improve, I am compelled to send out this dramatic appeal.

In spite of all efforts made by the international community, the Security Council's resolution, the Helsinki decisions, UNPROFOR mission, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina has taken a dramatic turn for worse.

The Serbian aggressors have intensified their attacks at all positions of already existing confrontation (Sarajevo, Bosnian Posavina, Mostar, Dubrovnik, Slavonski Brod, Županja ...) and opened new front-lines (Goražde, Travnik, Bugojno, Jajce ...).

By taking advantage of the fact that the attention of the world is concentrated on Sarajevo and the attempts to open the humanitarian corridor and trying to forestall decisive actions by international forces, which will have to be taken sooner or later anyway, the Serbian-Montenegrin aggressors are intent on achieving two basic objectives as soon as possible and through a large-scale military operation:

(1) Rounding up the borders of the so-called Greater Serbia through destruction of all Moslem and Croatian entities in contact zones;

(2) Accomplishing complete ethnic cleansing of territories within the so-called Serbian Krainas.

In order to achieve the second objective, they are committing crimes unheard of since the Holocaust and the end of the World War II. On a massive scale Moslems and Croats are being executed and herded into prison camps, entire places razed to the ground, even graveyard destroyed (e.g. the area of Prijedor-Kozarac). The purpose of all this is obvious: to drive out the non-serbian population from this area for good.

The situation is particularly dramatic in the areas of Northern Bosnia (Posavina) where the Serbian atrocities have forced the majority Moslem population there into a panic flight to Croatia.

Only today more than 20,000 people have fled across the river Sava to Croatia to seek shelter in the area between Slavonski Brod and Županja. As the Sava bridges are demolished, people are using all kinds of means to run to safety and many of them (including women and children) are swimming across the river Sava, panic-stricken as they are.

The aforesaid is an eleventh-hour warning that unless an international military intervention is undertaken shortly, the consequences in terms of the extent of human tragedy, mostly affecting children, women and old people, will be immeasurable.

Croatia is doing its utmost to give every possible help to this vast number of expelled people, but utterly exhausted as it is as a result of the war and the hundreds of thousands of refugees in need of accommodation, clothes and food, it has found itself in a position where it will be forced to redirect the flow of refugees towards Western Europe.

Therefore, I appeal to you to do all you can to prevent the tragedy which is looming larger and larger every minute. We believe that the only thing left is to call an emergency meeting of the Security Council and to approve an international military action.

I would appreciate if you could distribute this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Prof. Zdenko ŠKRABALO, M.D., Ph.D.
Minister